

History of Cincinnati Industrial Exhibitions



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Stephen Petty – Central Ohio Numismatic Association (CONA)

1870 – 1888 Cincinnati Exhibitions & Acquired 1881 Gold Medal



Cincinnati Industrial Expositions - History

- Held between 1870 and 1888.
- Goal was to promote arts and manufacturers as well as the economic development of the city.
- Sponsored by 3 Groups: i) Ohio Mechanics Institute (OMI), ii) the Cincinnati's Chamber of Commerce, and iii) the Board of Trade.
- The expositions represented a continuation of the annual fairs and industrial exhibitions sponsored by the Ohio Mechanics Institute between 1838 and 1860.

Cincinnati Industrial Expositions - History

- “The Ohio Mechanics Institute, principal sponsor of the expositions, was established in 1828 to educate mechanics, manufacturers, and artisans; to improve their status; and to provide for the diffusion of useful knowledge in the interest of social improvement.
- While the expositions ended with the Centennial Exposition of 1888, the OMI continued in its mission to provide technical education and in 1969 became a college of the University of Cincinnati”.

History of Exhibition Site

- On September 13, 1818, the City of Cincinnati purchased a plot of land from Jesse Embree for \$3,200 on the west side of Elm Street, just north of 12th Street.
- On January 22, 1821, the Ohio State Legislature passed an act that established “a Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum for the state of Ohio.” Thus, Ohio's first insane asylum was erected in Cincinnati on 4 acres (16,000 m²) of land bounded by the Miami and Erie Canal. The Commercial Hospital and Lunatic Asylum of Ohio was the parent institution for the Orphan Asylum, the City Infirmary, the Cincinnati Hospital, and Longview Asylum.
- Cincinnati Hospital, the main facility, was located along the canal at 12th and Plum Streets, which is now 12th and Central Parkway.

History of Exhibition Site – Cont.

- Following the Cholera outbreak of 1832, the land was used as a “pauper's cemetery” until 1857 when city encroachment on the neighborhood made it unsuitable for such uses.
- Serious complaints from abutting property owners forced the “Pest House” to be relocated outside of the city limits.
- On January 29, 1859, the city converted the property into a park known as Elm Street Park and the land and buildings were used for exposition purposes until 1876 when it was turned over to the Music Hall Association.

Paranormal activity has been reported at the site since it was built on a former graveyard. The Music Hall was selected as one of The Travel Channel's Most Terrifying Places in America and for the SYFY TV show Ghost Hunters.

History of Exhibition Site – Cont.

- Cincinnati's first industrial exposition, which was in 1869, was a great success so the city wanted to expand it the following year.
- At the same time, German musicians had plans to erect "a great temporary building opposite Washington Park" for the North American Saengerbund, which Cincinnati was to host during the summer of 1870.

The two competing groups reached an agreement to construct a building that would be shared. Depending on its use, the building was sometimes called Exposition Hall or Saengerfest Hall.

First Exhibition Building Details

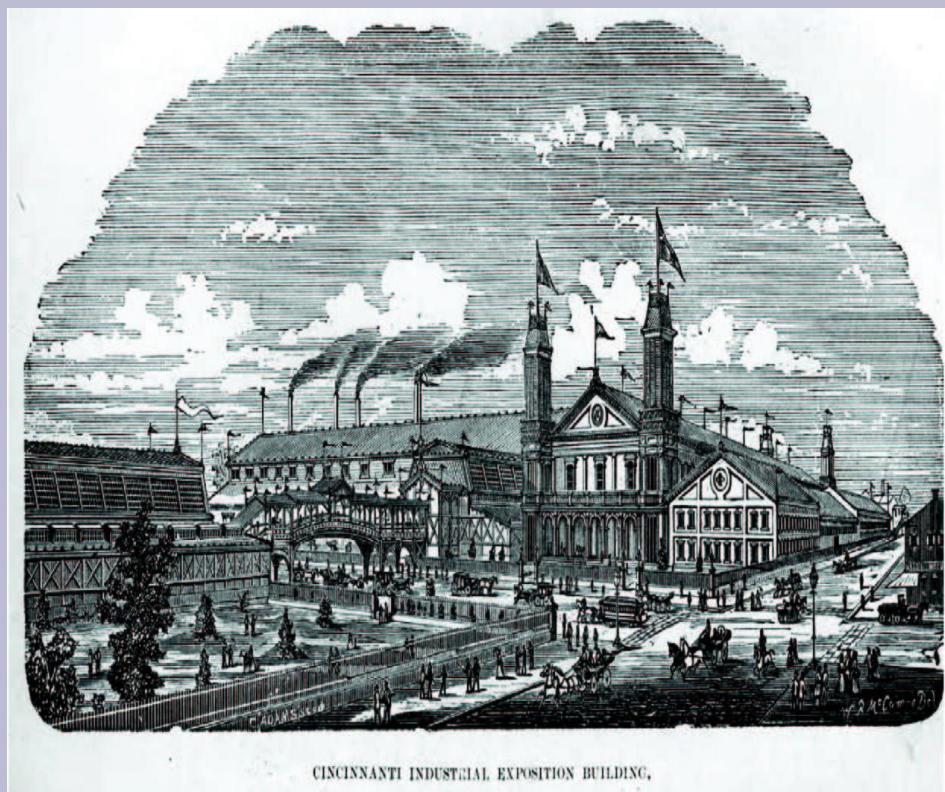
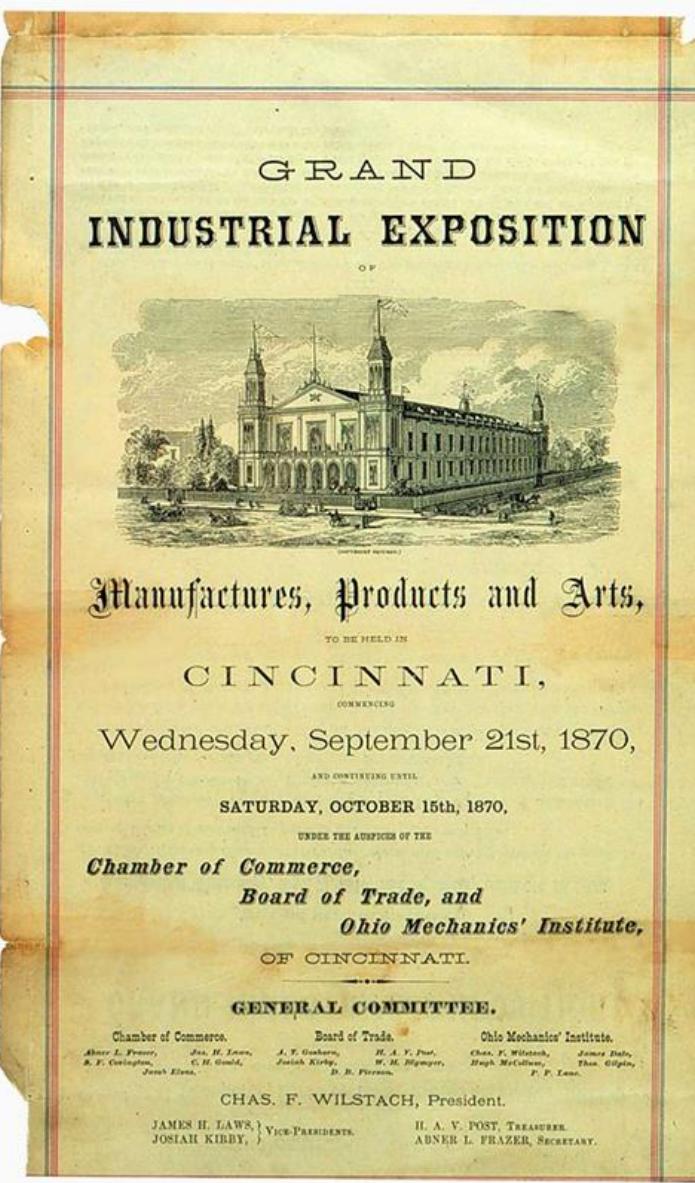
Exposition Hall Used for Industrial Exhibitions from 1870 to 1879:

- It was a huge wooden structure measuring 250 feet (76 m) long, 100 feet (30 m) wide, and 80 feet (24 m) tall with 3 other temporary buildings attached to it for a total floor space of 108,748 ft².

The roof of the building was covered in tin. According to lore, a thunderstorm arose during an 1875 May Festival performance and the rain on the tin roof grew so loud that the chorus was drowned out and the performance had to cease.

- In the audience during that performance was Reuben R. Springer (1800–1884), a wealthy Cincinnatian of German ancestry, who afterwards decided Cincinnati needed a more permanent structure.

1870 Inaugural Cincinnati Grand Industrial Exhibition



The First of the Grand Industrial Expositions took place beginning on September 21, 1870 in Saengerfest Halle, at 14th and Elm and lasted 30 days with thousands of people from the entire Midwest region attending

Early to Mid-1870's Cincinnati Grand Industrial Exhibitions



By 1872's Exposition, 500,000 people attended the Exhibition

The scene: No buses. No public transportation to speak of. It was pretty messy just getting there. But they came to see seven acres of machinery in motion and they left \$100,000 plus in the city coffers.

In this era, the Exposition buildings were hastily erected and featured dirt floors. So by 1875, when discussions began about building the Music Hall, the OMI directors were looking for a nice, permanent building in which to hold these expositions.

Ultimately a new Music Hall and North and South Wings were constructed on the same old site in time for the 1879 Industrial Exhibition.

But the politics of building it were messy!

Second Exhibition Buildings and Music Hall

- The public announcement in 1975 of the construction of a new Music Hall, to be erected where the old exposition building was standing, created both excitement and controversy in the city.
- Jealousies arose between those who favored the popular music festivals and those who felt the future of the city was best served by a greater exposition space.
- The newspapers, of course, had a field day! Moreover, letters appeared in the papers, each more bitter and caustic than the next. In one, a citizen wrote, “We are a mechanical people, not a race of fiddlers.”

Second Exhibition Buildings and Music Hall – Cont.

Reuben Springer brought together the interests of the city fathers, but not without challenges. He:

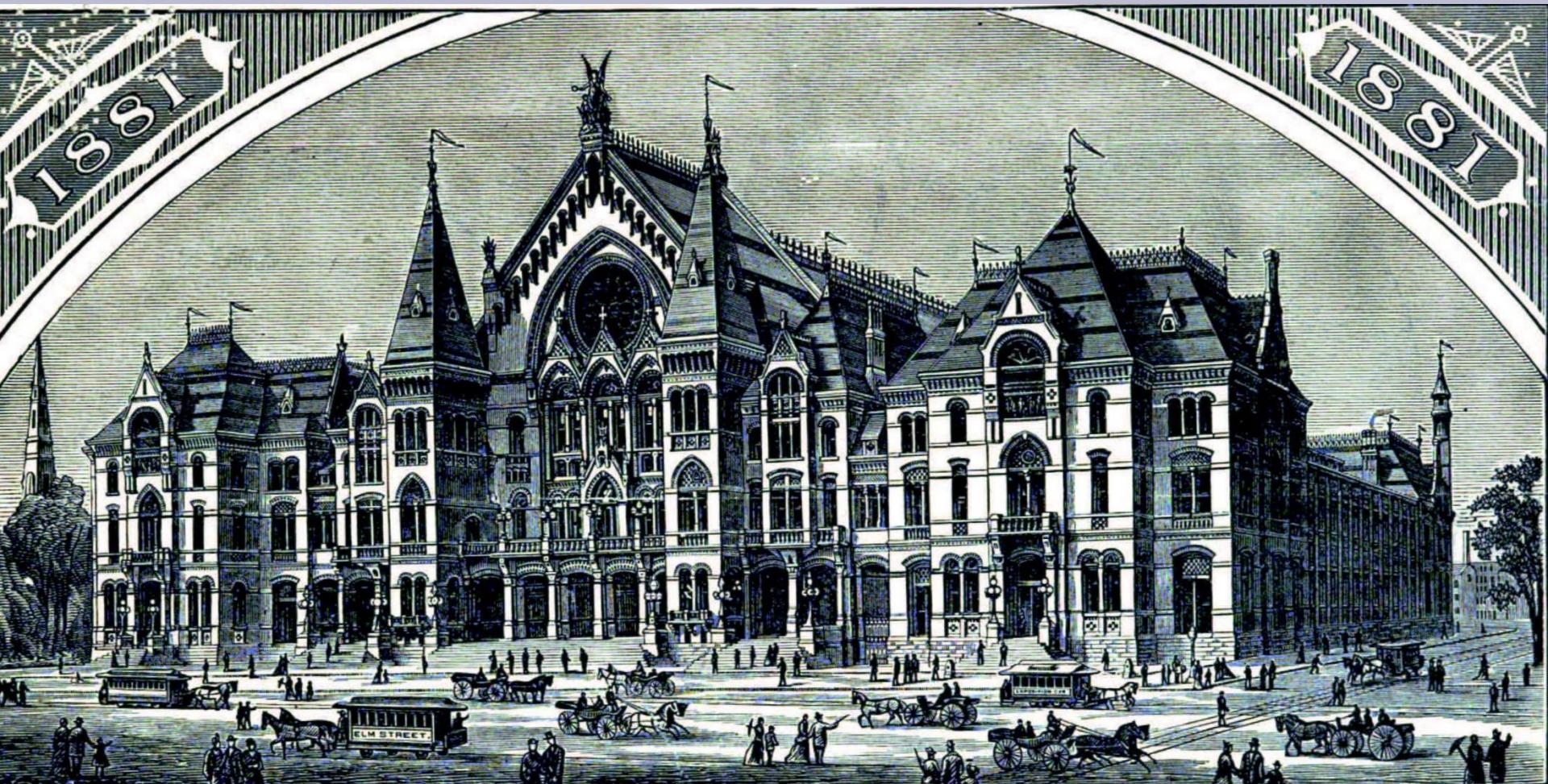
1. Wrote a letter in May 1875 to John Shillito, owner of Shillito's department store, offering to donate \$125,000 under two conditions:
 - a. First, that the site be free from taxation.
 - b. Second, that a further sum of \$125,000 be raised by the community.
2. When only \$106,000 was raised, Springer donated an additional \$20,000. From the outset, the musical and industrial interests collided, so Springer offered an additional \$50,000 if \$100,000 could be raised. This additional sum of money would be used for the construction of buildings around the hall for the purpose of holding industrial expositions. The total cost of the Music Hall was \$300,962.78 with the exposition wings an additional \$146,331.51.

Second Exhibition Buildings and Music Hall – Cont.

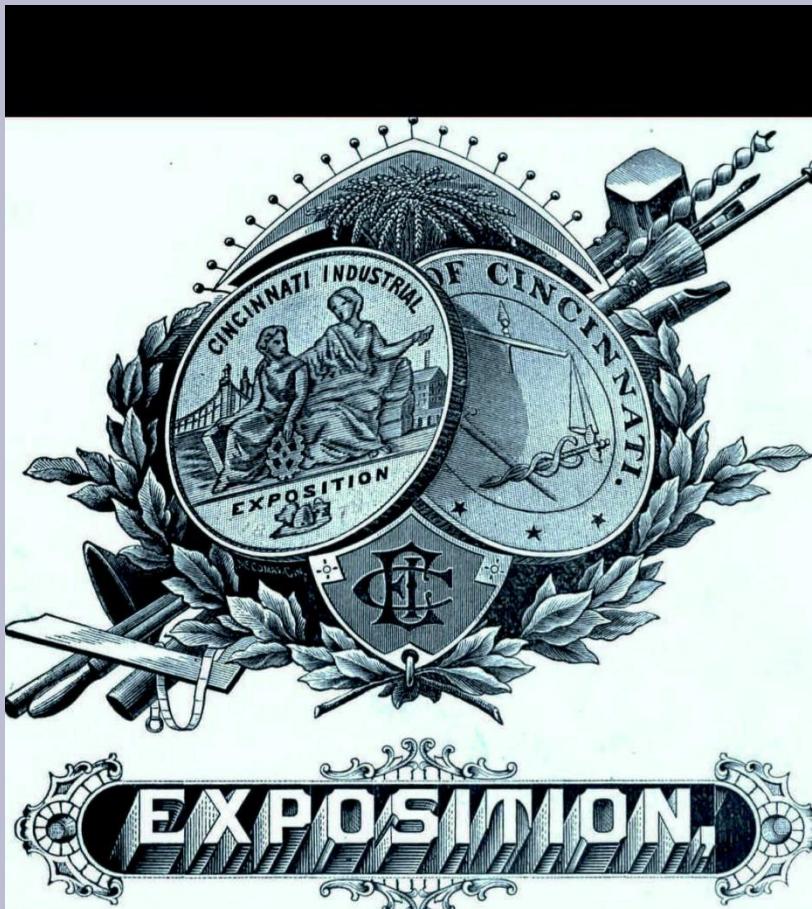
- Springer, along with other community leaders such as Julius Dexter, W. H. Harrison, T. D. Lincoln, Joseph Longworth, Robert Mitchell, and John Shillito organized the Music Hall Association to build the new hall.
- Construction on the Cincinnati Music Hall began in 1876, Hannaford and Porter were the contractors.
- After the Music Hall was completed, new funds were raised and resources were allocated for the completion of both the Northern and Southern Exposition Halls – The first Exhibition being held in the New Structures was in 1879.

Although the three buildings were constructed separately, they were immediately joined together using second story passageways. This allowed for events to span all three spaces and allowed several groups to share this space at once.

1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition



1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition



Report of the Board of commissioners of the ninth ...

Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce and Merchants' Exchange, Cincinnati (Ohio). Board of trade and ...

Ninth Cincinnati Industrial Exposition,

1881.

ATTENDANCE AND RECEIPTS.

STATEMENT SHOWING DAILY RECEIPTS from SEPTEMBER 7 to OCTOBER 8

DATE.	Cash Rec'ts Turnstiles.	Railroad and Steamboat Coupons.	Package Tickets.	Passed thro' h Turnstiles.
Wednesday, September 7.....	\$290 50	\$40 25		2,737
Thursday " 8.....	365 75	78 25		3,364
Friday " 9.....	382 00	81 75		3,516
Saturday " 10.....	500 50	89 50		3,910
Monday " 12.....	543 50	126 75		4,498
Tuesday " 13.....	936 50	192 50		6,433
Wednesday " 14.....	788 00	266 50	\$1 50	5,939
Thursday " 15.....	1,019 00	339 00	1 00	7,090
Friday " 16.....	1,865 75	281 00	13 00	10,688
Saturday " 17.....	1,735 00	276 75	4 25	9,997
Monday " 19.....	961 25	267 75	2 50	7,062
Tuesday " 20.....	1,395 50	394 50	1 50	8,918
Wednesday " 21.....	1,133 00	353 25	3 50	7,872
Thursday " 22.....	1,235 25	368 50	2 50	8,194
Friday " 23.....	2,620 50	453 25	8 75	14,644
Saturday " 24.....	1,963 00	395 00	9 00	11,319
Monday " 26.....	642 00	120 50	1 25	4,154
Tuesday " 27.....	1,277 25	454 00	4 25	8,673
Wednesday " 28.....	877 75	458 00	1 50	6,869
Thursday " 29.....	1,086 25	678 75	5 50	8,839
Friday " 30.....	2,549 00	638 25	15 50	15,064
Saturday, October 1.....	1,808 00	511 00	17 50	11,316
Monday " 3.....	685 25	292 00	3 50	5,509
Tuesday " 4.....	1,510 00	606 50	5 00	10,354
Wednesday " 5.....	1,636 75	519 25	7 75	10,594
Thursday " 6.....	1,709 50	577 00	9 25	11,178
Friday " 7.....	2,806 75	500 25	21 00	15,793
Saturday " 8.....	1,431 50	291 00	15 75	9,692
Unpresented.....		9 50		
Totals.....	\$35,755 00	\$9,660 50	\$155 25	234,216

1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition

OPENING DAY.

The following extracts from the daily press of the city, which appeared on the morning succeeding the opening of the Exposition, very graphically describe the opening day of the Ninth Cincinnati Industrial Exposition, September 7, 1881:

The opening of the Ninth Industrial Exposition yesterday was as deliberate and unostentatious a proceeding as could be imagined. There was no hurry, no noise, no excitement, but everything went off "as merry as a marriage bell."

The work on the preparation of the displays of many of the exhibitors went on during the whole forenoon, and then was not completed at the opening hour. It will be several days before the whole Exposition is in order, but there is in every department ample material for the occupation of the visitors for many days to come.

There was no crowd besieging the gates, but when the turnstiles were opened, as they were promptly at 11 A. M., visitors began to enter the buildings in goodly numbers. During the hour that intervened before the commencement of the exercises in Music Hall, these visitors dispersed themselves over the buildings, "doing" the more complete and interesting departments.

THE EXERCISES.

Just before the hour of 12 M. Michael Brand's Reed Band, the Cincinnati Orchestra, accompanied by the grand organ, sur-

Attendance a Little Light on Opening Day but Numbers were "Goodly."

1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition

Cincinnati Industrial Exposition.

II

eternal laws of justice, integrity, charity and peace. O God, wilt Thou bless our nation even in this moment of our pride and jubilation. Our spirits are humbled and softened as we think of him, our great-souled President, lying there on his bed of pain, bearing in his own body the shortcomings and sins of our people; our great American atonement for the errors and evils of our political life. O Father in heaven, our hearts are fused by one common hope and prayer—restore him to us again in the fullness of his physical and moral strength. Nevertheless, Thy will be done. Only give us the insight and courage not to let this divine lesson pass unheeded, but to undertake at once those serious reforms in our social and political life to which Thy providence is so impressively pointing us, and which alone can redeem and perpetuate our nation. And now, O God, as we cross the threshold and enter into the business of this hour and place, may Thy spirit go with us, and teach us to discern in this imposing spectacle before us another prophecy of the kingdom of God on earth, the reign of universal peace, justice, good will and helpfulness.

"To Thee be the glory! Amen."

After an organ recital, "March Militaire," from Gounod, by George E. Whiting, Mr. Galbreath addressed the audience.

MR. GALBREATH'S ADDRESS.

"Ladies and Gentlemen:—The Board of Commissioners regret very much indeed the absence of Mayor Means to-day. We congratulate ourselves, however, that we have with us here an associate, and a citizen of our city, who has been associated with all our Exposition enterprises. I take great pleasure in introducing General A. T. Goshorn."

REMARKS OF GENERAL A. T. GOSHORN.

"Ladies and Gentlemen:—As I was coming on the stage a few minutes since, I was requested by the President of the Board of Commissioners to represent his Honor, the Mayor of Cincinnati. That I would not attempt to do, but in order that his part of the programme may not be omitted, I will, in a few words, attempt to say unofficially what he would have said officially to you on this occasion, if present. For the ninth time we are assembled to open an Exposition in which all the citizens of Cincinnati are materially interested. We must note the great progress that has been made during this series of years. We congratulate not only those who participate in this Exposition, but the city itself, upon the great progress that has been made in everything pertaining to the arts, sciences and industries of this great city. I, therefore, in behalf of his Honor, the Mayor, welcome all those who are participating in this Exposition, and especially the

Where is Mayor Means?

Oh Well, General A. T. Goshorn Will Work.

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1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition

General Alfred Trabor Goshorn

- Was born on July 15, 1833, in Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Graduated from Marietta College in 1854.
- Enrolled in the Cincinnati Law School and graduated from that institution in 1857.
- Enlisted in the Union Army and rose to the rank of major in the 137 Ohio Volunteer Infantry.
- Following the Civil War, he became the owner of a paint company in Cincinnati.
- In addition, he also became involved in politics, serving as the president of the Cincinnati City Council for two terms. He was a major benefactor and the first director of the Cincinnati Museum of Art.
- He served as the first president of the Cincinnati Base Ball Club, which¹⁸ was a predecessor of the Cincinnati Reds.

1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition

Mayor William F. Means

- Born in Lawrence County, OH
- Elected Mayor of Cincinnati (Democrat) from 1881 to 1883.

Genealogy records for a William A. Means state he was major during this time and was born in Ironton working in the Iron Industry, moving to Cincinnati and working as a banker before becoming Mayor – yet the middle initial seems to be incorrect.

Very little known about him.

1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition

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Report of the Board of Commissioners.

In completeness and in novelty the Exposition far exceeded all heretofore given, and met with enthusiastic praise from all those who accepted the opportunity of making it a visit.

For the first ten days the attendance was not satisfactory, on account of the intense hot weather, particularly from the people of our own city. Following this period the attendance materially increased for a few days, until the depressing news reached us of the death of our beloved President, James A. Garfield. The days of mourning and depression told sadly upon the life and gaiety of our citizens, and its effect upon the attendance at the Exposition. By order of the Commissioners the gates were closed to the public during the time of the funeral ceremonies at Cleveland. The days that followed, and until the close, the attendance gradually increased, and our own citizens once again thronged the buildings. While the attendance fell considerably short of the previous year, the Commissioners congratulate the public and themselves upon the ultimate result.

The possible call upon the Guarantee Fund hung like a heavy pall, and it was a feeling of great relief when it was assured that no such step would be necessary, but that by its merits it gained and paid its way out; and the citizens and the city benefited and bettered by the enterprise.

The Departments of Art, Horticulture and Natural History were full of interest and attractiveness.

The expert tests of machinery was a departure which will be of great benefit to all future Expositions, and added greatly to the attractions of the Department of Machinery.

The management of the police by Capt. Thos. Wise, and of the janitors under him by Mr. Jas. Abel was such as to commend itself to all; and order, quiet and neatness was the result.

Attendance Marginal and of Concern

President Garfield Died – Exhibition Closed

Will they Have to Dip into the Reserves? – No!

1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition

Lots of Departments (9) and Sub-Classes (79)

General Index.

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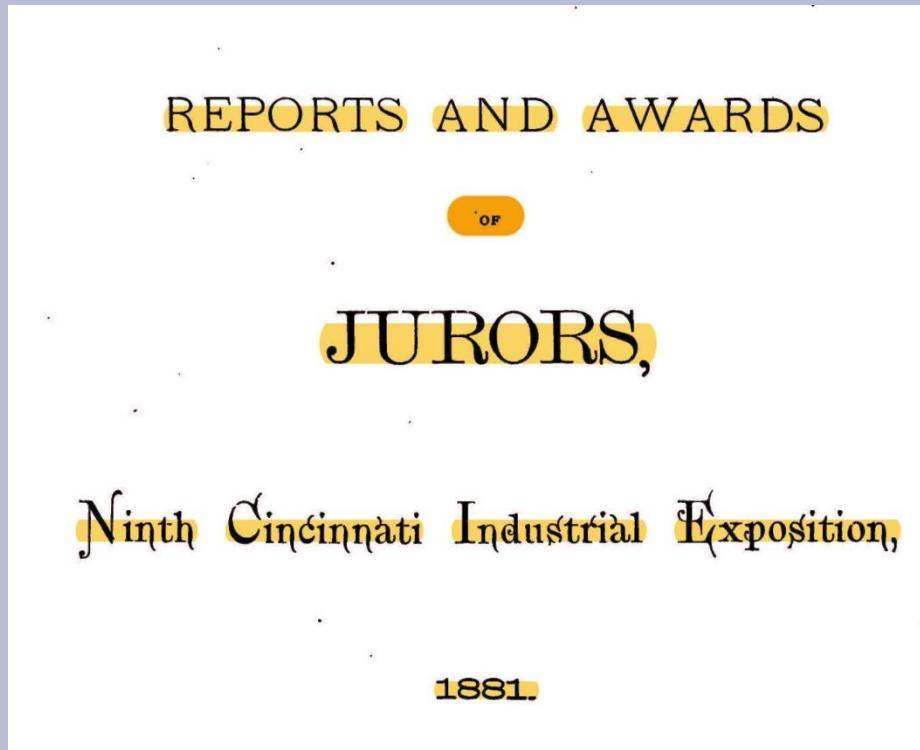
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Lots of Departments (9) and Sub-Classes (79)

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1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition



Judges call Jurors

Base
Award
Medals



1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition

Petty Purchased Medal

DEPARTMENT D.

CLASS No. 53.

CLOCKS, WATCHES, BRITANNIA WARE, ETC.

PREMIUMS.

Premium.

No.		Premium.
781	Best Display of Watches in Gold and Silver Cases.....	Silver Medal
782	" Watch Movements..... <i>(Subject to Expert Tests.)</i>	Gold Medal
783	" Display of Gold Watch Cases.....	Gold Medal
784	" Display of Silver Watch Cases.....	Silver Medal
785	" *Display of Clocks.....	Honorable Mention

Award Under Department D & Class #53 – Clocks, Watches, Britannia Ware, Etc.

Specific Entry #617 –
American Watch Company –
Fine Timekeeping

Cincinnati Industrial Exposition.

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No.		Premium.
786	Best Display of Clocks, American make.....	Silver Medal
787	" Display of Britannia Ware.....	Honorable Mention
788	" Display of Show Cases.....	Silver Medal
789	" Improvement in Show Cases.....	Silver Medal
790	" *Tower Clocks.....	Silver Medal

No.	Prem.	Exhibitors.	Residence.	Articles Exhibited.
616	781	American Watch Co...	Waltham, Mass....	Display of Watches in Gold and Silver Cases.
617	782	American Watch Co...	Waltham, Mass....	Watch Movements.
618	783	American Watch Co...	Waltham, Mass....	Display of Gold Watch Cases
619	784	American Watch Co...	Waltham, Mass....	Display of Silver Watch Cases
666	784	Schmitt, Wiegel & Co.	Cincinnati, O.....	Display of Show Cases.
667	789	Schmitt, Wiegel & Co.	Cincinnati, O.....	Improvement in Show Cases.
682	789	B. & M. B. Smith.....	New York.....	Improvement in Show Cases.
687	789	Schmitt & Bro.....	Cincinnati, O.....	Improvement in Show Cases.

REPORT OF JURORS.

To the Board of Commissioners of the
Ninth Cincinnati Industrial Exposition:

GENTLEMEN—We, the undersigned Jurors of Class No. 53, have carefully examined the exhibits referred to us, and concur in recommending the following awards, viz.:

PREMIUM No. 781, ENTRY No. 616.—American Watch Co., Waltham, Mass., Display of Watches in Gold and Silver Cases. Silver medal for superior excellence and fine artistic display.

PREMIUM No. 782, ENTRY No. 617.—American Watch Co., Waltham, Mass., Watch Movements. Gold medal for fine time-keeping and excellence of finish and manufacture.

PREMIUM No. 783, ENTRY No. 618.—American Watch Co., Waltham, Mass., Display of Gold Watch Cases. Gold medal for the intrinsic merit and fine artistic display.

PREMIUM No. 784, ENTRY No. 619.—American Watch Co., Waltham, Mass., Display of Silver Watch Cases. Silver medal for excellence and fine artistic display.

Acquired 1881 Gold Medal



1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition

Petty Purchased Medal

**American Watch Company
Waltham, MA
Watch Movements**

**Jurors: Henry Norman,
David Fletcher & William
Michie**

**2 gold and 4 silver medals
for the class – implies
~160 total gold & ~320
silver medals awarded**

188

Reports and Awards.

PREMIUM No. 788, ENTRY No. 666.—Schmitt, Wiegel & Co., Cincinnati, O., Display of Show Cases. Silver medal.

A very handsome and well-finished display.

PREMIUM No. 789, ENTRY No. 682.—B. & W. B. Smith, New York, N. Y., Improvement in Show Cases. Silver medal for Improvement in Doors, and Air-Tight and Dust-Proof Case.

HENRY A. NORMAN,
DAVID E. FLETCHER, }
WM. MICHIE, } *Jurors.*

AWARD—CLASS 53.

American Watch Co., Waltham, Mass., Display of Watches in Gold and Silver Cases.....	Silver Medal
American Watch Co., Waltham, Mass., Watch Movements.....	Gold Medal
American Watch Co., Waltham, Mass., Display of Gold Watch Cases.....	Gold Medal
American Watch Co., Waltham, Mass., Display of Silver Watch Cases.....	Silver Medal
Schmitt, Wiegel & Co., Cincinnati, O., Display of Show Cases....	Silver Medal
B. & W. B. Smith, New York, N. Y., Improvement in Show Cases.	Silver Medal

1981 Cincinnati Industrial Exposition

American Watch Company History

American Watch Company



In January 1859, the American Watch Company (AWCo) was formed by the merger of the Waltham Improvement Company and the Appleton, Tracy & Company, forming the American Watch Company (AWCo).

In 1885 the company name changed to the American Waltham Watch Company (AWWCo).

In 1907 the company name changed to Waltham Watch Co. (WWCo), in 1923 briefly to the Waltham Watch and Clock Company, and finally in 1925 to the Waltham Watch Company (WWC).